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which were regarded as treason and men who were regarded as traitors in the Revolution were not thus regarded in the Civil War; or, however they may have been regarded by some in the passion of conflict, they were never practically dealt with as such. In all that struggle, we believe, only one man was ever made to suffer the penalty of treason, and that was done by an officer whose conduct has been criticised by the North as severely as by the South. How such matters were regarded in Revolutionary times may be judged from the fact that Virginia and Pennsylvania in 1785 enacted laws making it treason to attempt to erect a new state in any part of their territory without the consent of the legislature. If this nation had been animated by the same spirit in 1861-65, it might have regarded as traitors all who strove—as of course the South did—to erect a new state within its territory. Instead, it regarded the seceding Confederates as belligerents, entitled to the same treatment that would have been given to some entirely separate nation which for some cause had waged war against us.—EDITOR.]

### THE NICARAGUA ROUTE

SIR,—In the September issue of your REVIEW, under "Letters to the Editor," I have read with interest the communication of Mr. Joseph Ferguson, of Philadelphia, and your reply, relative to "The Nicaragua Route." I am especially interested in the Nicaraguan Canal possibilities, having, in years gone by, had relatives more or less intimately associated with the Nicaraguan Government in fostering this route for our canal.

Could you direct me to any records, here or in Nicaragua, wherein I might find the extent of negotiations achieved during the Presidency of Zelaya and the names of some, if not all, of the parties who advocated this route during the ten years (1893 to 1903) referred to in your reply to the above mentioned letter? Frequently, I have made several attempts to get statistics anent this matter, and not until THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW have in sight did I feel that any of the attempts would be successful.

May I express to you my keen appreciation of the literary excellence of the REVIEW, which I read with genuine delight and anticipate with wonderment and interest?

With cordial and hearty wishes for the Editor and THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW,

JAS. R. GARBER.

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

[The Nicaragua Maritime Canal Company of 1889 was under the presidency of Hiram Hitchcock, of New York; and its actual work was done by a Construction Company, under the presidency of Senator Warner Miller, of New York. The whole venture failed in 1893. Senator Morgan, of Alabama, conducted for years thereafter a campaign for Government aid for the rehabilitation of the enterprise, but did not succeed. In 1898 a rival organization was formed to take over from Nicaragua a renewal of the concession which was about to lapse. This was known as the Grace-Eyre-Cragin Syndicate, and included among its members William R. Grace, John D. Crimmins, John Jacob Astor, Levi P. Morton, Darius O. Mills, and other New York capitalists. The State Department interceded in behalf

of the Maritime Canal Company, and secured a waiver of the forfeiture of the concession, pending arbitration. Then Nicaragua cancelled the Grace-Eyre-Cragin Syndicate's engagement. A long struggle followed, in Congress and elsewhere, between the rival interests of Nicaragua and Panama, with the result that in June, 1902, Panama won. See Keasbey's *Nicaragua Canal and the Monroe Doctrine* (Putnam's); and Johnson's *Four Centuries of the Panama Canal* (Holt); also voluminous Congressional and other Government reports.—EDITOR.]

## A LYRIC PLEA

SIR,—

Last week—how time crawls! it seems like ages  
 Since I was (waiting for your pregnant pages)  
 Amazed to find in Boston's *Evening Transcript*—  
 'Twas Saturday's—that your publisher had tipped  
 Off that avid owl's prognostication  
 As to how runs the pulse behind the nation.  
 Sunday limped on; and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday;  
 Thursday's no more; now, Friday's setting sun  
 Tells me that I must put my griefs away,  
 If on the morrow I expect to don  
 The armor of Rightonwardness, and press  
 Toward my hunger's goal—no, not success,  
 As that be—housed, warmed, fed, clothed. I? Oh, well,  
 After a fashion; that is, I've survived:  
 Good mother had: nursed—loved—and cast a spell  
 Over my spirit, that is not outlived.  
 But now I'm conscious of a certain power  
 That calls for strong meat—to sustain high quest.  
 The hunger-pains are sharper hour to hour—  
 As time approaches for *The Monthly Feast*.  
 These be the days—no, not “that try men's souls,”  
 There's no elastic left in that starched phrase—  
 When men must be alert to what controls  
 The throttle of the *push* and *pull*, that plays  
 Upon the engine of the multitude:  
 For evil ends—when not to everlasting good!  
 The World is very sick! but everywhere  
 Contagion sweeps, the Mighty Ones are *there*,  
 Slashing the thongs that bind Man from His Own.  
 But, what of Liberty on her offenseless throne?  
 See! the deft spiders spin th' transparent tissue,  
 And wrap it round her, and declare: and issue  
 Waits on their skill! Use words bled white and dying!  
 While all about America is crying:  
 Turn, turn, O People! sleep no more! rise up!  
 And take deep draughts from the great Fathers' cup  
 That brims with wine of Hope's emancipation.  
 And, as it lives, see to it, that your nation  
 No more shall rest on frail prosperity  
 Afforded by Affliction's Progeny!